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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/692,991	10/24/2003	Michael A. Uleski	LEAR 04120 PUS	1750

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EXAMINER

RIVELL, JOHN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3753

DATE MAILED: 12/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/692,991	Applicant(s) ULESKI, MICHAEL A.	
	Examiner John Rivell	Art Unit 3753	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/24/03 (application).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9-13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-7,14,16 and 18-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4,8,15 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10242003, 01142005</u> . | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>IDS filed 02072005</u> . |

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 13, lines 3-4, the unknown application referred to needs updating.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 1-20 are pending.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 14, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Doring.

The patent to Doring discloses, in figures 1-2 for example, “for use with a valve stem assembly, a snap-in grommet (generally at 30), the grommet comprising: a grommet body comprising; a nose section (at 30) at a first end of the grommet body, the nose section having a substantially conical shape to provide for insertion of the grommet body into an inflation hole (at flange 28) of a vehicle wheel rim (2); an annular section (at bead 6) at a base of the nose section, the annular section projecting radially outward from the base of the nose section; a cylindrical section (at 5) sized to match the inflation hole (at flange 28) and having a first end adjoined to the annular section (6); a flange section (4) projecting radially outward from a second end of the cylindrical section (5); and an axial bore (receiving the sleeve 3) passing centrally through the grommet body; and an integral sleeve (3) located within the grommet body bore, the

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sleeve having an outer surface configured to match the grommet body bore, and having a bore configured to receive a valve stem” as recited.

Regarding claim 3, in Doring, “the grommet is retained in the inflation hole (at flange 28) by compression of the annular section (6) against an outside surface of the wheel rim (2) and compression of the flange section (4) against an inside surface of the wheel rim (2)” as recited.

Regarding claim 6, in Doring, the integral sleeve (3) comprises a separate component inserted into the bore” as recited.

Regarding claim 14, Doring discloses “for use with a valve stem assembly, a grommet (generally at 30), the grommet comprising: a grommet body comprising: a nose section (30) at a first end of the grommet body, the nose section having a substantially conical shape to provide for insertion of the grommet body into an inflation hole (at flange 28) of a vehicle wheel rim (2); a cylindrical section (5) having a first end adjoined to the nose section; a flange section (4) that projects radially outward from the surface of the second end of the grommet body; an axial bore (receiving sleeve 3) passing centrally through the grommet body; and an integral sleeve (3) located within the grommet body bore, the sleeve having an outer surface configured to match the grommet body bore and a bore configured to receive a valve stem” as recited.

Regarding claim 16, in Doring, “the grommet is retained in the inflation hole by compression of the flange section (4) against an inside surface of the wheel rim (2)” as recited.

Regarding claim 19, in Doring, "the integral sleeve (3) comprises a separate component inserted into the bore" as recited.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5, 7, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doring in view of Kuypers (U. S. Pat. No. 4,506,695).

The patent to Doring discloses all the claimed features with the exception of having a plastic sleeve (claims 5 and 18) as well as the grommet being over molded over the sleeve (claims 7 and 20).

The patent to Kuypers ('695) discloses that it is known in the art to employ high temperature plastics material as the material of an integral "sleeve" 18 as well as over molding the "grommet" 12 over the sleeve for the purpose of providing a plastics material valve of strong lightweight material capable of surviving the environment in which the valve is used.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to employ in Doring a plastics sleeve for sleeve 3 as well as over molding the "grommet", generally at 30, over the sleeve for the purpose of providing a plastics material valve of strong lightweight material capable of surviving the environment in which the valve is used as recognized by Kuypers ('695).

Claims 9-13 are allowed.


Claims 2, 4, 8, 15 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Rivell whose telephone number is (571) 272-4918. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thur. from 6:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Blau can be reached on (571) 272-4406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


John Rivell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3753

j.r.